

# Governor's Water Augmentation Council

## Recycled Water Committee

### May 22, 2017 Meeting Summary

**Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm**

**Location: Arizona Department of Water Resources**

The Governor's Water Augmentation Council (GWAC) Recycled Water Committee was formed at the October 28, 2016, GWAC meeting. The Committee was formed to evaluate the progress made on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability recommendations for reclaimed water, and to consider statewide opportunities for future recycled water projects.

#### *Welcome and Introductions*

The Committee Chair, John Kmiec, introduced the Committee members present: Warren Tenney, Philip Richards, Maggie Messerschmidt, Lawrence Marquez, Joe Olsen and Tim Thomure. Committee members Bob Lotts, Chuck Graff and Brad Hill were unable to attend.

#### *Managed Recharge Credit Accounting Discussion*

Continuing discussion from the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Committee focused on the topic of managed recharge long term storage credit (LTSC) accounting. The discussion began with Warren Tenney reviewing [a recent publication from AMWUA](#) that includes discussion regarding making modifications to the effluent recharge LTSC accounting. Tim Thomure noted that the 50 percent cut to the aquifer is a disincentive to using stream channels to recharge and stated that, in certain cases, managed recharge is as efficient as constructed recharge. Mr. Thomure recommended that managed recharge facilities be granted 95 percent credit, with a 5 percent cut to the aquifer. Maggie Messerschmidt stated that the Nature Conservancy does not have a stance on this issue and is not opposed to discussion of the accounting.

Chairman Kmiec asked for the Committee to vote on their support of Mr. Thomure's proposal regarding a 5 percent cut to the aquifer for effluent stored at managed facilities. The five GWAC Council members present voted in favor of continuing the discussion in greater detail and taking it to the full GWAC in the future.

#### *Review 2017 Annual Report Recommendations*

The Committee discussed the significance of removing the 2025 sunset date on receiving LTSCs for recharging effluent. Mr. Tenney stated that this topic is also addressed in the recent publication from [AMWUA](#). Gerry Walker noted that the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) supports this concept and that removal of the current statutory limitation was identified as an action item in the Strategic Vision. Mr. Thomure mentioned the sunset associated with remediated water, however, the Committee recommendations in the 2017 Annual Report do not include remediated water. Ms. Walker noted that she was not aware of ADWR's position with respect to the remediated water topic.

Mr. Thomure updated the Committee on the progress of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) rulemaking effort recognizing that a goal of the Committee is removal of the prohibition on direct potable reuse. There are two working groups (Technical & Infrastructure and Water Quality) that are building off of work completed by Governor Brewer's Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) and that are currently considering how much of the BRP recommendation should be brought into the working group's process. Mr. Thomure showed a slide from ADEQ explaining some of the new terminology being discussed in the working group meetings. The slide is available [here](#).

There was also discussion regarding the term effluent and the possibility of utilizing a different term. ADWR attorney Jennifer Heim prepared a white paper that discussed the possible impacts of replacing the word "effluent" with another term in Title 45 of Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS), however it was noted that the term effluent appears in 61 sections of ARS and in 65 sections of the Arizona Administrative Code. Ms. Heim had the discussion paper reviewed by Chuck Graff from ADEQ. Ms. Heim concluded that replacement of the term effluent in Title 45 with another term, without any change in the term's definition, likely would not lead to any legal difficulties for ADWR in administering Title 45 or ADWR's rules but would likely require ADWR to undertake rulemaking procedures. The entire document can be found [here](#).

### *Closing Remarks*

The next Finance Committee meeting is set for June 15<sup>th</sup>, and will begin at 1:00pm at ADWR.